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From Tuesday August 27. to Saturday August 31. 1717.

AT the Court at *Hampton Court*, the 22d of *Auguſt*, 1717.

PRESENT,

The King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty in Council.

UPON reading this Day at the Board a Preſentment by the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Cuſtoms, dated the 19th of July laſt, to the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, in the Words following, *viz.*

'WE have had frequent Complaints from 'our Officers in ſeveral Parts of the Coaſt of this Kingdom, that the Smuglers 'are now grown ſo very numerous and inſolent, 'that they appear in Bodies from 20 to 30 armed Men, and in Defiance of the Officers of 'the Cuſtoms, do forcibly run great Quantities of Goods, to the great Prejudice of the 'Revenue and the fair Traders, a freſh Inſtance whereof we have now before us from 'one of our Officers at Stockton; who hath 'repreſented to us in his Letter of the 7th 'Inſtant, (Copy whereof is hereto annexed, 'for your Lordſhips more particular Information) that upon Notice of a conſiderable 'Quantity of Goods being run near that Port, 'he applyed to the Commanding Officer of 'two Troops of Dragoons now quartered 'there, to aſſiſt him in ſecuring the ſaid Goods, 'but was refuſed ſuch Aſſiſtance by the ſaid 'Officer, notwithſtanding the Clauſe in the 'Act of Frauds, 14. *Car.* II. requires the ſame: 'Such Commanding Officer alledging, that he 'had no Orders to aſſiſt any Officer of the 'Cuſtoms in the Execution of his Duty. We 'have therefore thought it our Duty to lay 'this Matter before your Lordſhips, and humbly pray that you will pleaſe to be a means, 'That the Military Officers quartered not only in and about Stockton, but alſo on other 'Parts of the Coaſt of this Kingdom, may 'be directed to aſſiſt the Officers of the Cuſtoms, as there ſhall be Occaſion, in Seizing 'uncuſtomed and prohibited Goods:

HIS Majeſty taking the ſame into Conſideration, is pleaſed, with the Advice of His Privy Council, to Order, and it is hereby Ordered, That His Majeſty's Secretary at War, do forthwith cauſe Directions to be given to the Military Officers quartered on, or near the Sea Coaſt, throughout England as well as Scotland, That they be aſſiſting to the Civil Magiſtrates, when deſired by them and the Officers of the Cuſtoms for the Executing Legal Proceſſes, and other Matters relating to His Majeſty's Service, in hindring the Exportation of Wooll, and Illegal Importation of French Silks, Brandy, and other Goods, and preventing the evil Practiſes complained of in the ſaid Preſentment.

JA. VERNON.

Geneva, Aug. 23. The Cantons of Zurich and Berne having at length agreed, that Zurich alone ſhall ſend a Deputy to the King of Sicily, with a Letter written in Behalf of this Town in the Name of the whole Evangelick Body, the Regents of Zurich have notified here, that they have nominated one of their Secretaries for that Commiſſion, who is expected here next Week in his Way to Turin. The King of Sicily is at Rivoli. The freſheſt Letters from Turin do not make the leaſt mention of any Preparations of War in Piemont, nor on the Frontiers. His Sicilian Majeſty has diſmiſſed the Marqueſs de Courtanze from the Employment of Governour to the Prince of Piemont, and he is retired from Court to his Country-Seat near Aſti.

Madrid, Aug. 23. 'Tis adviſed from Barcelona, that 60 Tranſport-Ships were getting ready in that Port to take on board a good Number of Horſe, and that they are to follow the Fleet as ſoon as ſome Men of War that are appointed for their Convoy, are arrived from Cadiz. A few Days ago the Duke of St. Aignan, the French Ambaſſadour, received an Expreſs from Paris, with Orders from the Duke Regent, to inquire what Enterprize the Spaniſh Fleet is to be employed in, and to repreſent to his Catholick Majeſty the Engagements the Crown of France is under to maintain the Neutrality in Italy. After ſome Sollicitation, a Letter was given him directed to the Prince of Cellamare Ambaſſadour of Spain at the French Court, which he was deſired to ſend to him, and was told it contained an Order to that Prince to inform the Duke Regent upon what Motives and with what Deſign the Fleet had been fitted out. In the mean time the Expedition it is gone upon, is ſtill kept ſecret here. The Marqueſs of Valdecannas, Governour of the Kingdom of Valencia, is removed from that Employment, and forbid the Court.

Genoa, Aug. 24. On the 19th Inſtant Sig. Mariconi, the Emperour's Reſident here, received an Expreſs from the Marqueſs of Rubi Viceroy of Sardinia, with an Account that on the 10th of this Month 10 Spaniſh Men of War and 30 Tranſports came to an Anchor in the Bay of Cagliari. Sig. Mariconi has ſince received Letters of the 18th from Sardinia, adviſing that the Spaniards had not yet begun any Hoſtilities, nor ſummoned the Viceroy; ſo that he had offered to allow them to furniſh themſelves with freſh Proviſions if they wanted, but at the ſame Time ſignified to them, that they muſt retire within three Days. 'Tis thought they waited to be joined at Cagliari by the reſt of their Fleet. On the 28th Inſtant 750 Men of the Imperial Regiment of Hamilton, are to arrive here from Milan, in order to be tranſported to Sardinia or to Naples, as there may be Occaſion.

Amſterdam, Sept. 3. Sir John Norris and Mr. Whitworth had their Audience of Leave of their Czariſh Majeſties on the 1ſt Inſtant; their Majeſties went hence by Water next Day for Bergen-op-Zoom, where 'tis ſaid they will ſtay two Days, and then proceed to Berlin; but all their Train went directly for Cleves